(c) if so, whether any irregularities were involved; and

(d) if so, whether the CBI has been ordered to enquire into the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Housing Schemes with Foreign Assistance

5196. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to introduce housing schemes with foreign assistance is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which foreign assistance is likely to be utilised ;

(c) the names of the countries which have proposed to offer such assistance to the country together with their terms and conditions;

(d) whether such proposals have been received from indigenous firms; and

(e) if so, the terms and conditions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (e) The following proposals for securing financial assistance for housing construction/upgradation activities have been posed to the various external aid/funding agencies; *viz.* Kfw (German Bank for Reconstuction) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.

HUDCO Kfw VI

During the Indo-German Annual aid negotiation held in April, 1995, the German Government had committed DM 50 million assistance (including DM 30 million as grant) for HUDCO's EWS Housing Schemes. The project was formally posed to the German Government in December, 1995, and is awaiting their approval.

HUDCO KfW VII

A proposal seeking grant assistance of DM 10 million from KfW to Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), for financing 150 Building Centre and 40 Mobile Building Centres has been posed for inclusion under the 1996-1997 aid allocation to India under Indo-German bilateral assistance. Reaction of the funding agency is awaited.

HUDCO-KfW VIII

Assistance in the form of grant/soft loan of DM 50 million from KfW to Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), for housing schemes for urban/rural Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), envisaging construction of 44,000 dwelling units and slum improvement/upgradation of 10,000 units, has been posed for inclusion under the 1996/1997 aid allocation to India under Indo-German bilateral assistance. Reaction of the funding agency is awaited.

HDFC-KfW III

A tentative proposal seeking financial assistance from KfW for construction/upgradation/extension of dwelling units in urban and rural areas and undertaking complementary infrastructure development projects, financing of income generation measures, financing of housing construction measures for slum dwellers and financing building centres, received from Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) has been posed for consideration under Indo-German bilateral assistance. Reaction of the funding agency is awaited.

ADB ASSISTANCE TO TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD (TNHB)

A Project Profile seeking ADB loan assistance of Rs. 381.11 crores for construction of houses and development of infrastructure in 36 project towns has been posed to ADB. Reaction of funding agency is awaited.

Central Electricity Authority

5197. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to exempt power projects costing up to Rs. 1,000 crores from the scrutiny of the Central Electricity Authority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have decided to raise the project cost limit for power projects awarded on the basis of competitive bidding from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 1000 crores, for the purpose of requirement of Central Electricity Authority's Techno-economic clearance. The necessary notification is under process for issue.